



# St. Gerard

Roman Catholic Parish

January 10, 2021

Baptism of the Lord

Established December 11, 1904

LORD'S DAY MASS TIMES:  
By pre-registration only until further notice

## CONTACT US

The Parish Office is open reduced hours, but the doors remain locked. Please phone ahead.  
We continue to take the necessary precautions to keep our parishioners and employees safe & healthy.  
You may phone/email the office Monday to Thursday between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

125 Third Avenue North, Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) | Telephone: 306.782.2449 | Email: [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Pastor.....Fr. Louis Nguyen 306.782.0323 [louis.yorkton@gmail.com](mailto:louis.yorkton@gmail.com)

Parish Office Administrator.....Sandra Archer  
Caretaker.....Mario Guerra

## MASS/SERVICE SCHEDULE

Mon. (11 <sup>th</sup> )	NO MASS
Tues. (12 <sup>th</sup> )	6:00pm <i>Holy Hour Devotion</i> 7:00pm +Fernando Valete
Wed. (13 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am +Peter & +Irene Cherneski
Thurs. (14 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am Russell Griffith
Fri. (15 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am Agnes Zubach
Sat. (16 <sup>th</sup> )	9:30am +Mildred Fewings

5:00pm Jody Chupa  
7:00pm Health of members of the  
Hornung & Pilon families

Sun. (17 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> 9:00am Mass for the People 11:00am +Garry Fletcher 5:00pm
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## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTENDING MASS

- **Pre-registration for Saturday/Sunday Mass is required.** Online at [www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca) Monday morning to Thursday at 12 noon.
- **Maximum 30** people may attend Mass.
- Each household must register separately.
- Masks are mandatory. This includes from the time you leave your vehicle until you return to your vehicle after Mass.
- Members of the same household may sit together at the marked seating.
- *At least two-metres physical distance is to be observed at all times, even with masks on (masks are an additional measure of protection).*
- **Please arrive early.**
- The following must stay home for the sake of the wider community:
  - ❖ People with COVID-19 symptoms, who live with someone with COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19
  - ❖ The sick, including those with a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath
  - ❖ Those who have travelled outside of the province or Canada within the last 14 days

**Come and Spend an Hour  
with the Lord!**

Eucharistic Holy Hour Devotion  
at 6pm (prior to 7pm Tuesday Mass)



Stay  
Connected  
Online!

[www.stgerard.ca](http://www.stgerard.ca)



Lord, help me to discern my gifts and talents and use them for the common good of all people.

- From *Peaceful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*,  
Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## A Note from Your Pastor.....

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend we celebrate The Baptism of the Lord, the last Sunday of the Christmas Season, and then we begin Ordinary Time. I would like to share with you my brief reflection from the first reading and the Gospel.

There is no doubt that we are created to love and to be loved, to know that we are loved and appreciated just for who we are. Therefore, I would say that this is one of the deepest needs of every human heart: to experience unconditional acceptance from God and from others as well.

The first reading for this weekend helps us to see how God is. God is the perfect Father, and the perfect friend and companion. As the Father, He gives without counting the cost: "*Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters! And you that have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price*" (Isaiah 55.1-2).

God will never make His appreciation for us depend on our achievements. He loves us with an unconditional love, His love strengthens our love. He will never reject us. He loves us not because we are good but because He is love.

We can see the different kind of love, with limitation, in humans. Sometimes our love for others is tainted with subconscious, selfish expectations. Sometimes when others don't get what we want them to achieve, we feel disappointed, and we often express it by showing our disappointment to them.

Also, sometimes we have fear of being rejected; we end up subtly rejecting the one we should cherish, and seek satisfaction in less risky "substitutes".

Through the first reading we acknowledge what God's love is. We are asked to love others in the same love as God's love for us. Love without conditions, a sincere love which never ends.

And in the Gospel we see how humble Jesus is. If Jesus wasn't affected by original sin, if He didn't need a spiritual rebirth, if He was already in perfect communion with the Father, then why did He get baptized? The answer is this: It was for our sake. He wanted to reveal His plan for redeeming the world. He didn't need to be baptized for His own sake, but He wanted to be baptized by John the Baptist for our sake.

By receiving baptism by John, Jesus entered so fully into the human condition, and from that he could take upon himself all of our sins, so that we could be freed from them and have a new start, a new hope, a new life.

Today we reflect on these characteristics of baptism. We are called to acknowledge and appreciate the gifts that God has given us through baptism. And we are called to live God's divine life by being in communion with Jesus through the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Do not forget that Baptism is the sacrament that makes us children of God and citizens of Christ's kingdom; it is the door to everlasting life. And when we were baptized, Christ's desire was fulfilled: we traded in our inheritance of original sin for a share in God's own divine life; it was the beginning of our eternal adventure.

My dear sisters and brothers, I invite you to continue to reflect on this and offer a sincere thanks to God for giving us Baptism. Through it we are all His children. We belong to God's family and gain God's life in us.

May God bless you all

Fr. Louis Nguyen



## SACRAMENTS PREPARATION

### BAPTISM

*The First Sacrament of Initiation*

Please contact the Parish Office to register for the next Baptism Preparation Session (date to be determined): 306.782.2449 or [office@stgerard.ca](mailto:office@stgerard.ca)

Preparation for:

### CONFIRMATION

*The Second Sacrament of Initiation*

and

### FIRST EUCHARIST

*The Third Sacrament of Initiation*

and

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

is postponed until further notice.



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)** is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus

Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. Although the RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized, at St. Gerard we also prepare adults for the Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians (including Catholics) into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church. If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission. Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer. **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN THIS JOURNEY OF FAITH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**



**Are you planning a marriage in 2021?  
Congratulations!!**

Please contact the Parish Office as soon as possible to make arrangements to meet with Father Louis.



## News from the CWL



**Memberships for 2021** It's that time of year to be thinking about renewing our 2021 CWL Membership. Membership fees are still \$30.00 and can be paid by cash or cheque and mailed to St. Gerard's C.W.L., 125 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. N., Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4. If you feel comfortable paying by e-transfer, contact Paulette Cooper 306-782-7923. If you have any questions or concerns regarding memberships, contact Paulette. Even though our Council has not been active due to COVID, we are required to collect and submit membership fees to the National CWL Office. Any member can access the National website ([www.cwl.ca](http://www.cwl.ca)) at anytime to learn more about the CWL of Canada. If you are not a member and would like to join our League, contact Paulette or any member of St. Gerard's Catholic Women's League.



## News from the Knights of Columbus



- Jan. 9 'Keep Christ in Christmas' signs  
Take down at 9am
- Jan. 13 Virtual General Meeting (online at 7pm)
- Jan. 25 Articles for "The Word" due

*If you are interested in joining the Knights, please call Keith Hayward @ 306.783.0963. [www.kofc-2031.ca](http://www.kofc-2031.ca)*

## Livestream of Daily and Sunday Masses Resurrection & Christ the King Parishes (Regina)

are available at **9am** at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ArchdioceseofRegina/videos>

## Daily & Sunday Mass may also be viewed:

Vision TV (check your local TV listing)

[www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

[www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1](http://www.saltandlighttv.org/live/?muid=1)

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# Bringing Home the Word **+**

## Stories as Windows into the Past

By Mary Katherine Deeley

When we were growing up, my siblings and I would often ask our grandmother to tell us stories about our mother when she was young. We liked listening to our mother tell those same stories from her perspective. The stories varied in some details, but it always felt like a veil was lifted on the past and we had some sense of where we came from along with some insight about our mother's personality.

She, of course, did the same thing for my daughters, making them giggle at the story of my getting into her perfume bottle when I was three. Such stories connect us with the people we know. Old friends trade stories of shared experiences; young companions learn about the world from the stories of their elders and even from the stories their friends tell them about their lives.

In Acts, Peter appeals to his listeners by telling the story they know so well. He even appeals to their shared experience as he says, "You know..." (v. 36). Stories connect us to one another, opening the door to understanding each other a little more and a little better. In his story, Peter marks the baptism of Jesus as the beginning of his ministry. Our story in the Christian community begins with baptism as well. Peter records that Jesus went on "doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him" (v. 38). What would the story of our lives after baptism tell people about us? Would someone like Peter tell people that we went about doing good and loving God and neighbor?

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## The Sacrament of Reconciliation



- 30 minutes before and after Weekday Mass (Tuesday – Friday)
  - Saturdays at 9:00 am
- or by appointment. Phone: 306.782.2449

## GIVING TO YOUR PARISH

Thank you to those who are able to contribute by one of the following methods:

### Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG)

After downloading the [Pre-Authorized Giving Form](#), please complete it, attach a void cheque, & mail it to:

St. Gerard Parish  
125 Third Ave N  
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

### Interac e-Transfer

- 1 Log into your online banking account.
- 2 Find **e-Transfer** and add [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) to your recipient list.
- 3 Enter the desired amount.
- 4 A question, answer, or password is not required by St. Gerard Church, however it may be required by your financial institution. If so, please email the question and answer to [giving@stgerard.ca](mailto:giving@stgerard.ca) with your name, mailing address and telephone number so that we can ensure your contribution is recorded properly.

If you have an envelope number, your donation will be reflected in your annual charitable donation receipt. All others will receive a receipt by mail, so PLEASE include your mailing address in the follow-up email. Thanks!

### Mail envelopes to the church

You may mail cheques (not cash) to:

St. Gerard Parish  
125 Third Ave N  
Yorkton, SK S3N 1C4

## Our Call as Christians

When Jesus was baptized, the Holy Spirit rested in him. And God the Father called him "the Son that I love." Then, God said, "I really like what he is doing."



When we are baptized and confirmed, we receive the Holy Spirit. And God calls us his children. Then we are to go and do as Jesus did. Pray and worship God. Serve others. And spread the Good News.

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## YOUTH REFLECTION

### **"Baptized in the Spirit of God"**

#### **This Week...**

John the Baptizer is preaching a baptism for repentance. But John announces that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. In John's time people came forward, were brought into the river to be immersed with the water, and then they were helped out. It was more than a shower - it was an underwater journey. Each person entered the death of not being able to breathe. Each person emerged into the new breath and cleanliness of refreshing, full life.

#### **For Your Reflection**

Try to imagine what it would be like on a hot and dry day to go to the river and be baptized by John the Baptizer. Try to imagine being drenched with water as you make a new commitment to life without sin. Then imagine seeing Jesus, the one John has been preaching about. He gets baptized himself, and the skies open up and a dove alights on him, and you hear the voice of God announce pleasure with what Jesus has done.

- What would you do next? How is your life different when you take that experience seriously? How is your life different now because of your baptism?
- Being drenched with water would be most appealing when we are hot, dry, or dirty. Recall a particular time that you looked forward to the cooling, cleansing experience of being drenched with water.

Excerpt from *In Touch With the Word, Cycle Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter*, St. Mary's Press, 2004

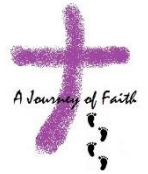




**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)** is an incredible journey of discovery, the discovery of God's love in Jesus. If you or someone you know is interested in exploring the friendship and saving grace of Jesus Christ, we invite you to join us in the RCIA journey. It is a warm, welcoming experience that introduces the Christian faith in our Roman Catholic tradition. We explore topics such as Holy Scripture, the Sacraments, Church history and the core beliefs of the Church. Anyone who has taken this "leap of faith" has found it to be a life-altering experience.

The RCIA process is intended for those who are non-baptized. There are several rites and stages that are part of the process to prepare adults for Baptism and to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

**Rite of Reception of Baptized Christians into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church.** If you have been baptized in another Christian tradition, the Catholic Church respects that baptism. Baptism is the sacrament of our rebirth in Christ and our immersion into His saving death and Resurrection. It can never be repeated. Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church happens after a period of preparation through catechesis, prayer and worship, and an introduction to Catholic life, values, and mission.



**Adults who have been baptized in the Catholic Church but have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation** can prepare for reception of this sacrament through a period of catechesis and prayer.

If you are interested in this journey of faith, please contact Fr. Louis at 306.782.2449 or 306.782.0323.

*And to all our friends in St. Gerard's parish, we remind you that we all have a responsibility to share our faith and bring others to Christ. If you know of a family member, friend, co-worker or fellow student who is searching for a deeper meaning in their life, let them know about RCIA.*

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## LOST SOMETHING?



**Mitts, toques, etc.** – check the literature display drawer marked "Lost and Found" in the Welcome Area.

**Books, religious articles, jewellery, etc.** – contact the Parish Office.

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## OFFERING A MASS

The offering of a Mass in the name of a deceased family member or friend is one of the greatest ways to keep our beloved dead in our living memory. At each celebration of the Mass, the great prayer of sacrifice is made complete as Jesus' life, death and resurrection is offered to God the Father. When we offer a Mass for a particular person, we ask that in a special way the individual be remembered by the priest who offers up the great sacrifice on behalf of the whole community of faith. In a very real and active way, the life, death and resurrection of the person remembered becomes present and is offered up with Jesus. Each time we offer up a Mass for someone, living or dead, we celebrate the greatest gift of our faith – the gift of Everlasting Life in Christ.

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**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is available daily at the EADM Centre Chapel at 484 Hamilton St. Regina. Hours: 10:00 am to 8:00 pm on Monday through Thursday. Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Please help us keep Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament available in Regina on a daily basis.

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## The Healing and Growth Centre St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission

**St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission** – Searching for God’s purpose in your life? Want to live life more fully, and take your faith to the next level? Then, come to St. Therese! At St. Therese Institute of Faith and Mission, adults of all ages can explore their faith, discern their vocation in life, foster their prayer life and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. Visit on line at [www.sttherese.ca](http://www.sttherese.ca)

### **Rachel's Vineyard: a psychological and spiritual journey for healing after abortion.**

Are you hurting because of an abortion? **Rachel's Vineyard** is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Weekend retreats offer you a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release and reconcile painful post-abortive emotions to begin the process of restoration, renewal and healing. For more information, please contact Elaine at 1.306.480.8911 or email [r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net](mailto:r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net)

**ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY** offers distance education courses for adults seeking faith formation for personal and professional development: ***Diploma in Ministry; Certificate in Lay Ministry; Come Let Us Worship: A course in liturgical foundations; Certificate in Spirituality; and Diploma in Intellectual Disability Studies.***

For an information package please contact Continuing & Distance Education, St. Francis Xavier University, toll free 1-877-867-5562, [diplomainministry@stfx.ca](mailto:diplomainministry@stfx.ca)